

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

I'm very concerned that this proposal would limit my use of a Personal Video Recorder, or the ability to archive content for my own use using a computer. I do both of these things now with a variety of content, and I already own a digital-capable television. The ability to watch content at a time of my choosing is very important to me, I would watch much less television content (maybe none at all), if I had to arrange my schedule to watch it in real time. Further, I see no reason why ability to make a copy of a piece of content on a computer hard drive for my use, or to show a friend a copy on DVD or similar media, is destructive of the content owner's rights. I'm not using the material for commercial gain, and its an occasional use type situation. The only possible economic impact is a gain on the part of the content owner, since the commercials if present would be viewed more than once in some cases, and I wouldn't likely be viewing the content at all if I couldn't access it via a PVR or computer.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

I fail to see how a broadcast flag that actually prevented copying for illegitimate uses could *fail* to interfere with my ability to move content from say, my PVR to my computer for backup, etc. I often collect entire sets of a specific show, and being able to do so on the large computer disks now available is important to me.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Again, this is a huge problem. Since I already own a PVR and a computer with TV decoding capability, it concerns me that future changes would make these devices obsolete. (neither decodes digital TV now of course, but I would expect to upgrade as more digital content becomes available). Anything that restricts the ability of manufacturers to produce inexpensive devices for the purpose of personal video recording seems problematic to me.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

See my response to the previous question. In general, industry being able to innovate around digital content has continuously decreased the cost of those devices.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Anything that makes the requirements more complex would tend to increase the price I have to pay for a given capability. This is true whether that requirement is actually a complexity requirement (more hardware or software) or a requirement that decreases the utility of a given device (thereby decreasing the volume of production, probably a *more* important factor long term.)

Other Comments:

I personally would like to see this proposal rejected. Digital Rights

Management in many cases is simply the desire of copyright holders to make more money off the same content than they do now (when there is no such restriction). There are plenty of knock-off video tapes sold with analog content now, and there are ways that the industry can use to go after people who do this for profit. What's more they do them now. I don't see why the situation with digital media is any different. It's not the quality of the copy that makes it popular to buy pirated content on the market, it's the *price*. People who want to do this will always be able to copy media using some technical device, imposing extra requirements merely makes it more expensive for the rest of us to use content the way we want.